

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. B-4402

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic 409-411-413 West Saratoga Street

and/or common #409 vacant, #411 Aquarian Photo.,
#413 Bechtel Plating Co.

2. Location

street & number 409-411-413 W. Saratoga Street not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity of congressional district Seventh

state Maryland county Baltimore

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u>X</u> commercial
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial
	<u>XXX</u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military
			<u> </u> museum
			<u> </u> park
			<u> </u> private residence
			<u> </u> religious
			<u> </u> scientific
			<u> </u> transportation
			<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name see attached sheet

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse liber

street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610 folio

city, town Baltimore state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. B-4402

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: 3

This circa 1850-1860 Italianate brick commercial block building faces north on West Saratoga Street and abuts a partywall structure to the east and a modern alley to the west. The building is four stories high and six bays wide. It is divided into three two-bay units, each painted a different color. Each store front has different architectural treatments, but the upper stories are similar and there is no seam in the brick work between the units.

The first story of #409 is composed of a large display window that almost fills the facade. The display window is boxed and projects beyond the plane of the facade. The plate glass is modern, but the opening and window surrounds are original. The base of the windows have molded trim of Greek ovolo, two fillets, cove, bead, fillet, back band bead and fillet. The display base has low, five-panelled backdrop behind it. The entrance is to the far western edge of the second bay and is flush with the facade. The entrance is reached by six steps. Through the glass door one can see that there is a door to the east that opens into the first floor and a stair hall to the south that runs straight up the west wall. A pent roof covers the bow of the display window and shelters the entrance.

The first story of #411 contains two recessed entrances in the first bay and a display window in the second. The glass doors have wood surrounds. The first door leads to an enclosed vestibule with a landing that leads down the hall to a stair that rises along the back south wall. The second door leads to the first floor commercial space. Recessed field panels line the walls and soffit of the recessed entrance. The floor is tiled in white hexagonal tiles. The display window projects slightly beyond the plane of the facade. The large plates of glass are modern, but the overhanging cornice and sign board above the opening are original. The cornice extends across the width of the facade and forms a porch over the recessed entry. The profile of the cornice is fillet, two ogees and two fillets. A series of five transom windows run across the top of the cornice. The pilasters are divided by pilasters and surmounted by an ornate cornice of fillet, ogee, two fillets, two back bands, a quarter round, cove, back band, cove, and fillet trim.

The first story of #413 has been resurfaced with black vitrolite panels that border the display window and east section of the wall. The display window almost fills the two bays, with the entrance in far western side of the second bay. The door is set in an angled recess. The door is glass with wood surrounds and it has a narrow transom. A metal sign board runs across the facade under the second story windows. Remnants of the original door surrounds and window cornice remain. A metal security grill is bolted over

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the glass.

The second, third, and fourth stories are stacked versions of each other, with the height of the windows decreasing as the building rises. Six windows are evenly spaced across each story. The second story has 1/1 sash windows in the first two bays, 6/1 sash with infill panels where the sash is too short for the opening in the third and fourth bays, and 6/9 sash in the fifth and sixth bays. The windows have stone sills and the lintels are embellished by dentil courses.

The windows in the third and fourth stories are two 1/1 sash, and four 6/6 sash. The sills are stone. There are no decorative lintels.

The projecting cornice is supported by 21 large brackets with foliated pendants that drop down and lap over a stringcourse of raised molding. A projecting brick stringcourse runs below the cornice.

The west wall facing the alley is blank brick. A back building extends from the rear of #413 on the alley. It consists of a three-bay, four-story addition and a four-bay three-story addition. The four-story addition is set in one bay from the edge of the main building. It has a corbelled brick cornice. The three-story addition has an L plan, running two-bays long and then jutting out one bay to directly front the alley for an additional two bays. The south wall is blank.

The interiors of the front rooms of #409 and #413 have pressed tin ceilings and crown molding. #413 is divided into three rooms, the front has shelves and cases lining the walls, a middle room that appears to hold the stair case, and a back room that appears to be work space. #411 was not accessible.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____ unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This six-bay, four-story building is a typical example of commercial block construction along Saratoga Street during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. The first story would have been used for sales or display area and the upper stories would have been used as dwellings or office space. The different first-story doorway treatments gave a bit of individuality to each of the repetitive units. The upper stories are, however, all identically treated and with the continuous cornice give an imposing, massive air to the building. Overall the building is a good example of the circa 1850s aesthetics of mixed-use architecture. The rather severe facade is punctuated by decreasing window heights as the building rises. The top stories have the least embellished lintels; although the lower stories lintels and the cornice are typically Victorian with projecting eaves, dentil courses and scrolled brackets. Sheer size was also an important part of the design.

The presence of shops and quarters indicates the mixed residential and commercial character of this Baltimore neighborhood in the late nineteenth century. The first story on each unit has been altered, but the presence of multiple entrances in two of the units indicates that these buildings were probably combination shop-houses or shop-offices intended for several tenants. One unit (#413) however has its staircase in the middle of the plan, indicating a single tenant use. The storefronts retain elements of their original commercial styling. Architectural historian Richard Longstreth writes that "shop-houses prevailed in emerging commercial centers of cities and towns alike through the early decades of the 19th century. Examples can still be seen in areas that have not experienced radical change, even though the shopfronts themselves have almost always been altered. . . the upper section retaining a domestic character."¹ In this particular example, the both the commercial and the residential nature of the applicable stories prevailed through to the present century.

¹ Longstreth, Buildings of Main Street, p. 24.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Richard Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street (Washington: Preservation Press, 1987)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Baltimore East Quad

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane Shaw, Architectural Historianorganization CHAP, Room 1037 date December 21, 1991street & number 417. E. Fayette Street telephone 301-396-4866city or town Baltimore state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCE
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2077
301-514-7600

B-4402
Owners of Property

#409 West Saratoga Street
Stephen Corp.
313 N. Howard St.
Baltimore MD 21201

#411-413 West Saratoga Street
Investors Management
2275 Fairground Road
W. Friendship MD 21794

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Baltimore, MD
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8.1

The first-story facades are good examples of nineteenth-century storefronts. The large plate glass windows set in wood architraves, often with transoms, provided the much desired display space and interior illumination. The slightly inset entrances accentuated the projecting image of the display window. #409 is valuable for its retention of the wood panelled backboard to the display case and interior pressed tin ceilings. #411 retains its typical transoms. #413 retains the pressed tin ceilings and three-room plan. It is unusual in that it has the staircase in the second room, and thus it there was no segregation of access in this unit as there were in the other units.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:
Agricultural-Industrial Transition
Industrial/Urban Dominance

Historic Period Themes:
Architecture
Economics

Resource Type:
Building

Historic Environment:
Urban

Historic Function and Use:

Commercial/Residential

Known Design Source:
None

REVISIONS

BLOCK REVISED

LOTS 17, 34, 35, 37, & PT OF LOTS 1/16, 26 & 36 DIV & CONS'D PER DEED & B.S. C.S.H. 83-445

LOTS 1/16 & PT OF LOTS 13 THRU 26 BLK. L18 CONS'D PER APP & 83-444 & 445

Lot 33 Lot No Change - C.S.H. 83-556

LOTS 1/16, 17, 36 DIV & CONS'D PER LETTER & LOT 33/35 LOT No CHANGED C.S.H. 85-063

LOTS 27, 28, 29, 30 CONS'D PER O.O. CH. SH. 91-096

576

W SARATOGA

ST.

ST.

593

596

PACA

EUTAW

N.

N.

NGTON

W. LEXINGTON
ST.

W LEXINGTON

ST.

AREA LOT 1/17
 7 83/84 - 0.802 Acs
 36 - 0.031 Acs
 34/35 - 0.771 Acs
 34/35 - 0.080 Acs
 0.691 Acs
 1/16 83/84 - 2.184 Acs
 2.875 Acs 9/84

□ DENOTES LOT FROM BLK G18 FOR 82/83
 △ DENOTES CLOSING OF STREETS & ALLEYS

NOTICE

THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED
 FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(d) OF THE CITY CHARTER
 IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER
 SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

CITY OF BALTIMORE
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION

WARD 4 SECTION 5

BLOCK 595

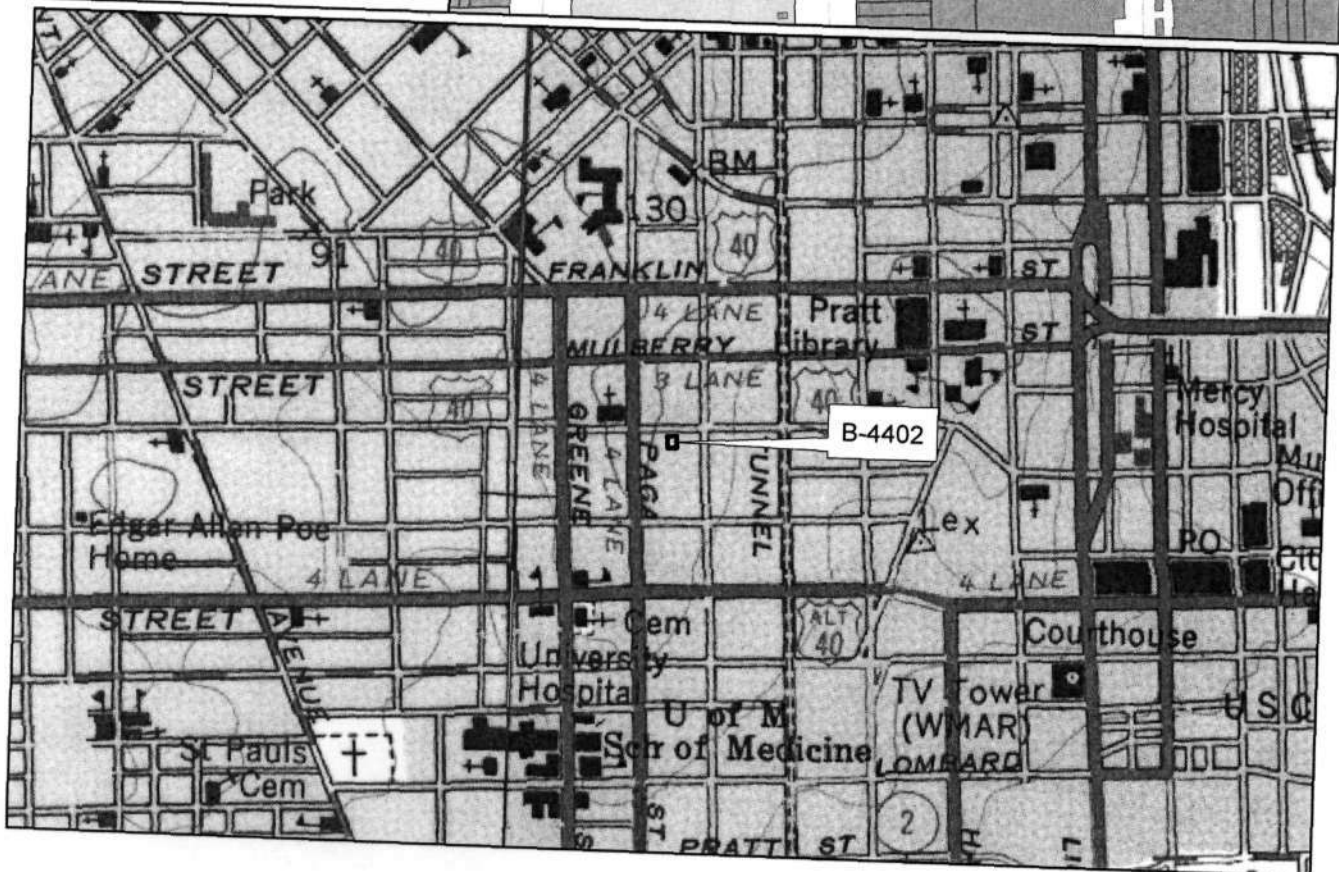
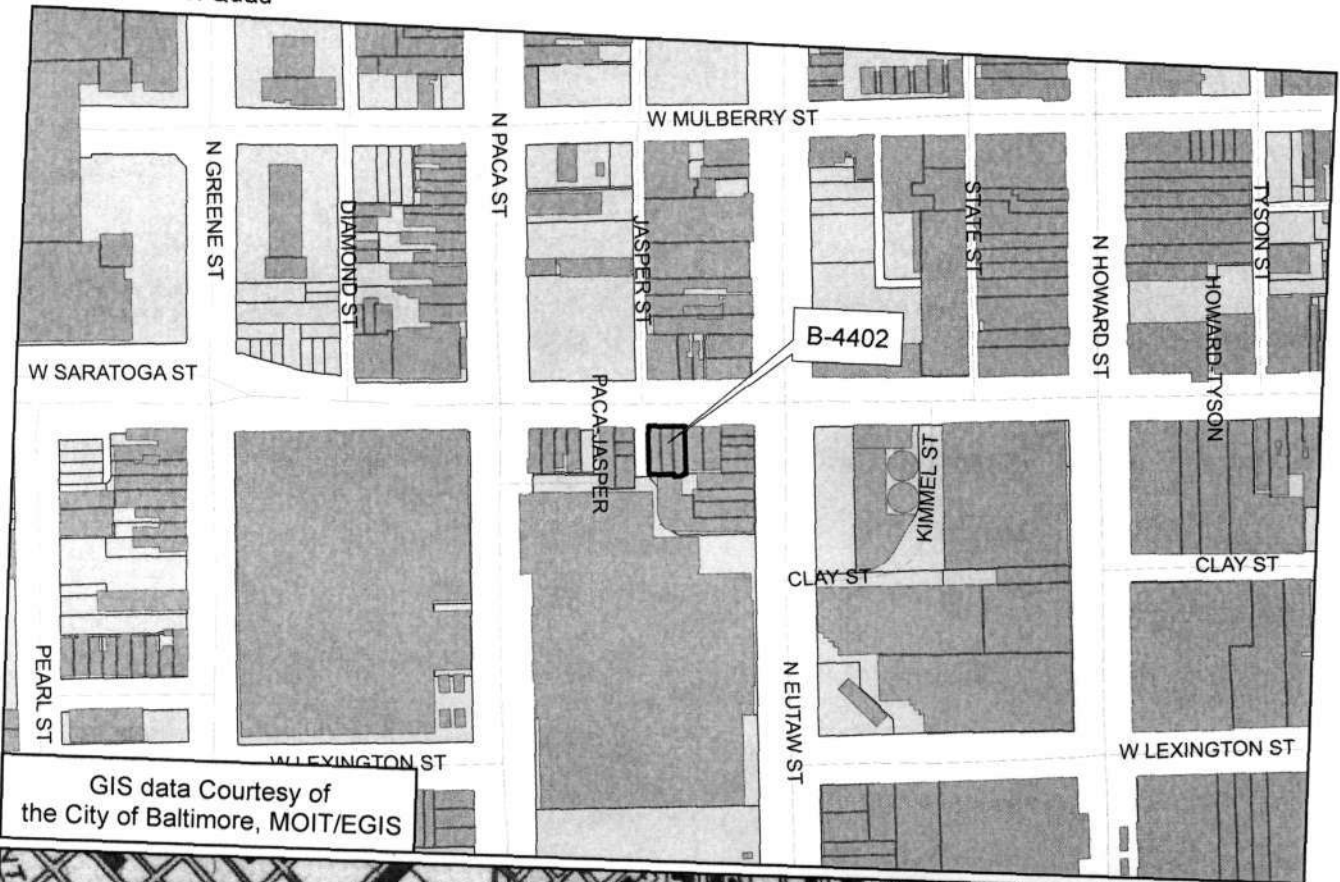
SCALE 1"=50'-0" DATE MAY 1983

BY P.M.F.

ED BY P.M.F.O.P.

BY

B-4402
409-411-413 W. Saratoga Street
Block 0595 Lot 025
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad





B-4402

409-413 W. Saratoga St

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Facade, NW elevation

1/4



B-4402

409 W. Saratoga St.

Baltimore md

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Facade, detail

2/4



BECHT

LET'S CREATE
Aquarian Photography
625-1907

OLD PICTURES ENLARGED - RES

FOR RENT
625-1907

B-4402

411 W. Saratoga St.

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Facade, detail

3/4



B-4402

413 W. Saratoga St.

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Facade, detail

4/4